

Appln. No. 10/791,496

Attorney Docket No. 12400-007

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CENTRAL FAX CENTER**I. Listing of Claims**

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1. (Currently Amended): A safety device including a releasable clip, the releasable clip having ~~an~~ elongated a main gripping element in the form of an elongated hollow cylinder having a first and second end, and an elongated moveable gripping element having a first and second ends, the main gripping element first end having a retaining element to retain the first end of the moveable gripping element; the main gripping element retaining second end affixing the second end of the moveable gripping element in a predetermined position such that the clip may grip a ~~fabric tube or the like~~ gas flow duct of the safety device between the main gripping element and the moveable gripping element; the second end of the elongated moveable gripping element is configured to fit over or within the hollow cylinder; a gas generator being provided which ~~responde~~ supplies gas to the interior of the hollow cylinder in response to a supply signal to move the second end of the moveable gripping element to cause the first ends of the main gripping element and the moveable gripping element to disengage and release the grip gripping of the duct.

2. (Currently Amended): A safety device according to Claim 1 further comprising the gas flow duct provided in the form of an outlet duct, the outlet duct being sealed by the releasable clip.

3. (Currently Amended): A safety device according to Claim 1 wherein the safety device includes an inflatable air-bag and the gas flow duct enables venting of the interior of the air-bag.

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4. (Cancelled).

5. (Currently Amended): A safety device according to Claim 4 2 wherein a plurality of the releasable clips are provided, each of the clips being associated with a respective outlet duct.

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Currently Amended): A safety device according to Claim 6 1 wherein the second end of the moveable gripping element is a piston moveable within the hollow cylinder.

8. (Original): A safety device according to Claim 7 wherein the hollow cylinder has a terminal inward projection to retain the piston in the hollow cylinder.

9. (Original): A safety device according to Claim 7 wherein the second end of the moveable gripping element comprises a closure cap dimensioned to close an open end of the hollow cylinder.

10. (Original): A safety device according to Claim 1 wherein the gas generator is a pyrotechnic squib.

11. (Original): A safety device according to Claim 1 wherein the gas generator is a source of compressed gas.

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12. (Currently Amended): A safety device according to Claim 1 wherein the first end of the main gripping element and the retaining element comprises a retaining lug provided on the main gripping element comprises a retaining element in the form of a lug.

13. (Currently Amended): A safety device according to Claim 1 wherein the main gripping element is in the form of a cylindrical housing, A safety device including a releasable clip, the releasable clip having a main gripping element in the form of an elongated hollow cylinder having a first and second end, and an elongated moveable gripping element having a first and second end; and the moveable gripping element has having inclined resiliently mounted walls to engage the exterior of the cylindrical housing of the main gripping element; the main gripping element first end having a retaining element to retain the first end of the moveable gripping element; the main gripping element second end affixing the second end of the moveable gripping element in a predetermined position such that the clip may grip a gas flow duct of the safety device between the main gripping element and the moveable gripping element; the second end of the elongated moveable gripping element is configured to fit over or within the hollow cylinder; a gas generator being provided which supplies gas to the interior of the hollow cylinder in response to a supply signal to move the second end of the moveable gripping element to cause the first ends of the main gripping element and the moveable gripping element to disengage and release the gripping of the duct.

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14. (Currently Amended): A releasable clip for a safety device, the releasable clip including a main gripping element in the form of an elongated hollow cylinder defining a first and second end, the main gripping element first end having a retaining bracket, and the second end of the main gripping element being opened, a moveable gripping element having a first and a second end, the first end of the moveable gripping element received by the retaining bracket, the second end of the moveable gripping element obstructing the second opened end of the main gripping element, a gas generator ~~is~~ communicating with the hollow cylinder, the releasable clip in a first predetermined position gripping a gas flow duct of the safety device between the main gripping element and the moveable gripping element, and in response to a supply signal supplying gas within the hollow interior ~~moves~~ moving the moveable gripping element second end and disengaging the moveable gripping element second end from the retaining bracket to release the gripping of the duct.

15. (Original): A safety device according to Claim 14 wherein the safety device includes an air-bag.

16. (Cancelled).

17. (Currently Amended): A safety device according to Claim 14 wherein a plurality of the releasable clips are provided, each of the clips being associated with a respective outlet gas flow duct.

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18. (Original): A safety device according to Claim 14 wherein the second end of the moveable gripping element is a piston moveable within the hollow cylinder.

19. (Original): A safety device according to Claim 18 wherein the hollow cylinder has a terminal inward projection to retain the piston in the hollow cylinder.

20. (Currently Amended): A safety device according to Claim 14 wherein the second end of the moveable gripping element comprises a closure cap dimensioned to close an open the second opened end of the hollow cylinder.

21. (Currently Amended): A safety device according to Claim 14 wherein the gas generator is a pyrotechnic squib disposed inside the hollow cylinder.

22. (Original): A safety device according to Claim 14 wherein the gas generator is a source of compressed gas.

23. (Original): A safety device according to Claim 14 wherein the main gripping element is in the form of a cylindrical housing, and the moveable gripping element has inclined resiliently mounted walls to engage the exterior of the cylindrical housing of the main gripping element.

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II. Remarks

Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 12-14, 17, 20 and 21 are being amended and claims 4, 6, and 16 are being cancelled by this Amendment. Accordingly, after entering the above amendments, claims 1-3, 5, 7-15, and 17-23 remain pending.

Reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is herein respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claim 14 has been objected to for informalities. Claims 1-13 and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1-3, 10 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by DePottey et al. Claims 4, 5, and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over DePottey et al. The Examiner has allowed claims 14, 15, and 17-23 and has stated that claims 6-9, 13 and 16 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §112 rejections.

Claim 14 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner and claims 4, 6, and 16 have been cancelled.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication of the allowance of claims 6-9, 13 and 16, if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this amendment, claim 1 has been amended to clarify the description and cooperation of the recited element. Claim 1 now incorporates subject matter of claim 6, deemed allowable by the Examiner. Further, claim 13, deemed allowable by the Examiner, has been rewritten into independent form by incorporating the subject matter of claim 1, from which it previously depended.

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Since claim 1 has been amended to include claim 6 material, which the Examiner deemed allowable, and the dependencies of claim 1 have been amended accordingly, the Examiner's rejections based on 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 are now moot. Upon a careful review of all the claims, Applicants are entering a number of additional claim amendments to claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 12, 14, 17, 20, and 21 to improve the clarity of the claims and to provide proper antecedent basis for claimed elements.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw these rejections.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present form of the claims are patentably distinguishable over the art of record and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

September 5, 2006
Date



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